

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6109

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 2653

FOR EUR/LUERS FROM AMBASSADOR EAGLEBURGER

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: CASC CGEN
SUBJ: DUAL NATIONALS

REF: A) BELGRADE 2556 B) STATE 79924

1. YOU AND I HAVE TALKED BEFORE ABOUT THE POTENTIAL FOR MISCHIEF INHERENT IN OUR DUAL NATIONAL PROBLEM WITH THE YUGOSLAVS. BUT I HAVE ALSO FELT THAT, GIVEN YUGOSLAV SENSITIVITIES ON THE MATTER, WE NEEDED TO BE CAREFUL ABOUT HOW AND WHEN WE RAISED THE ISSUE IF WE HOPED TO MOVE THEM TOWARD A SEARCH FOR A SOLUTION.

2. THE ALIMI CASE (REFTELS) HAS ONCE AGAIN PUT THE PROBLEM ON THE FRONT BURNER; BUT IT ALSO MAY GIVE US THE OPPORTUNITY TO PUSH FOR A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION. WHEN I TALKED TO STARCEVIC ABOUT THE CASE HE WAS AT LEAST AS UPSET AS I WITH THE MACEDONIAN GUMSHOES, AND CLEARLY DOES NOT RELISH THE POTENTIAL THIS CASE HAS FOR SOURING RELATIONS IN THE WAKE OF THE TITO VISIT. WHEN I TOLD HIM I THOUGHT THE DUAL NATIONAL ISSUE WAS POTENTIALLY OUR MOST SERIOUS BILATERAL PROBLEM HE AGREED AND SAID HE HAS BEEN THINKING ABOUT POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS (UNDEFINED).

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3. SO, THERE MAY BE SOME SYMPATHY IN THE FSFA FOR A NEW LOOK. I WOULD LIKE TO PURSUE THE MATTER FURTHER INFORMALLY, BUT AM NOT SURE WHAT WE OUGHT TO BE AIMING FOR. THUS, ADIVCE FROM THE EXPERTS WOULD BE APPRECIATED, BOTH ON WHETHER NOW IS THE TIME TO RASIE THE QUESTION AND, IF SO, WHAT WE WANT OUT OF ANY DISCUSSIONS. ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT I CAN PERSUADE THE GOY TO SIT DOWN WITH US I WOULD WANT

TO ASK THAT A DEPARTMENT EXPERT COME OUT HERE TO DO THE ACUTAL
NEGOTIATING.

4. I ASSUME THAT THE BEST WE COULD HOPE FOR WOULD BE
AGREEMENT IN SOME FORM TO PERMIT US CONSULAR ACCESS
TO DUAL NATIONALS. IN THAT REGARD YOU MAY WANT TO LOOK
AT BELGRADE'S ARIGRAM A-296 OF MAY 24, 1973. IN ANY EVENT, OUR
EYES SHOULD NOT BE BIGGER THAN OUR STOMACHS IN TERMS OF
WHAT WE TRY TO GET, OR WE COULD BLOW THE WHOLE DEAL.

5. I WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU DESIGNATE
COULD PURSUE THIS AND GIVE ME SOME ADVICE. YOU MIGHT,
AS WELL, WANT TO RAISE THE MATTER AT YOUR NEXT YUGOSLAV
INTERAGENCY GROUP MEETING.

6. WITH REGARD TO THE ALIMI CASE ITSELF, I HOPE NO ONE
IN THE DEPARTMENT IS UNDER ANY ILLUSIONS THAT THIS IS
GOING TO BE EASY TO SOLVE OR THAT WE HAVE MUCH OF A
LEGAL LEG TO STAND ON. WITH ALIMI IN THE HANDS OF
THE MILITARY (WHICH HE CLEARLY IS) WE WILL HAVE TO
CONTENTEND WITH FORCES THAT WILL LOOK ON THE PRINCIPLES
INVOLVED FROM A LESS FORTHCOMING POINT OF VIEW THAN
THE FSFA. IN SUM, I CANNOT AT THIS POINT PREDICT
WHETHER WE WILL BE SUCCESSFUL IN GETTING HIM
OUT. BUT NEITHER AM I HAPPY WITH CONGRESSMEN WHO
ASSUME EMBASSIES ARE GUILTY OF INACTIVITY ON BEHALF OF
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AMERICAN CITIZENS UNTIL PROVEN INNOCENT.
EAGLEBURGER

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NNN

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